

# **WISHA REGIONAL DIRECTIVE**

**WISHA Services**

**Department of Labor and Industries**

## **2.19**

# **TARGETING WISHA ACTIVITIES (ELECTRICAL UTILITIES & COMMUNICATION)**

**Date: May 2, 2001**

### **I. Background**

Most Washington employers are subject to Title 49.17 RCW, the Washington Industrial Safety and Health Act (WISHA). RCW 49.17.050(6) specifically requires the department to "provide for the frequency, method, and manner of the making of inspections of work places without advance notice." WAC 296-350-10010(1) specifically provides for programmed inspections using "scheduling systems" that may look at a range of objective criteria. WAC 296-350-10010(3) also provides for "routine programmed inspections" of several "high hazard industries," including electrical utilities and communication.

### **II. Scope and Application**

This WISHA Regional Directive (WRD), which replaces and rescinds WISHA Interim Operations Memorandum #98-6-H, will remain in effect indefinitely. It provides guidance to WISHA enforcement and consultation staff regarding programmed activities within electrical utilities and communication.

### **III. Special Enforcement and Consultation Protocols**

*A. Who has primary responsibility for managing the appropriate use of WISHA enforcement resources to conduct electrical utilities and communications inspections?*

WISHA regional enforcement supervisors are responsible for managing the appropriate assignment of inspections within the electrical utilities and communication industries.

1. WISHA enforcement supervisors are expected to ensure that staff focus attention on work sites where they are likely to identify the greatest number of serious hazards.

2. WISHA safety and hygiene enforcement supervisors are expected to make a particular effort, using any resources available to them, to identify and inspect those electrical utilities and communication employers who appear highest on the electrical utilities and communications industry list. To the extent possible, inspections of employers high on the list should be given priority over other programmed inspections within the electrical utilities and communications industries.

*B. How should inspections within electrical utilities & communication be reported?*

Inspections within the electrical utilities and communication industries are to be considered “programmed” inspections unless they are fatality/catastrophe investigations or have been initiated in response to specific complaints or referrals. All such programmed inspections are to be comprehensive hygiene or safety inspections of the work site and/or operation, including an evaluation of the employer’s overall safety and health program.

*C. When should WISHA consultation activity be identified as “programmed” consultation activity?*

WISHA consultation services that result from employer-specific marketing to employers within the electrical utilities and communications industries will be considered “programmed” consultation activity for the purposes of reporting to federal OSHA.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Michael Wood

Senior Program Manager for WISHA Policy & Technical Services

For further information about this or other WISHA Regional Directives, you may contact WISHA Policy & Technical Services at P.O. Box 44648, Olympia, WA 98504-4648 -- or by telephone at (360)902-5503. You also may review policy information on the WISHA Website (<http://www.wa.gov/lni/wisha>).